

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 SSO-00 /023 W

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P 051400 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4865

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1394

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT SOUTH ASIA

REF: STATE 61277

1. WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS REGARDING HOUSINGFOR PRINCIPALS AND STAFF. BOTH INVOLVE PROBLEMS WHICH WE BELIEVE WE CAN MANAGE BUT BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING DEPARTMENT' S PREFERENCES.

A. FIRST OPTION IS TO PUT PARTY IN ROYAL GUEST HOUSE (SITAL NIWAS). SINCE DEPSEC RUSH AND ASST SEC SISCO ARE COMING AS GUESTS OF GON, THIS IS WHAT NORMALLY WOULD BE EXPECTED. NOTE THAT WHEN VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW VISITED NEPAL IN JANUARY 1970, VP AND ENTIRE DELEGATION OF ABOUT 30 WERE PUT UP THERE. (YOU MIGHT CHECK WITH SOME MEMBER OF THAT DELEGATION, E. G., JOHN M. THOMAS, FOR FIRST- HAND APPRAISAL OF HOW SUITABLE THAT FACILITY IS.) PROBLEM HERE IS THAT AT PRESENT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS JUST BEGUN RENOVATIONS AT SITAL NIWAS IN PREPARATION FOR PRINCEDHIRENDRA' S WEDDING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY MAY. THIS RENOVATION APPARENTLY CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF PAINTING AND CLEANING AND IN OUR OPINION, IF WE WENT TO FOREIGN SECRETARY WITH SPECIFIC REQUEST, WE THINK ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE IN RENOVATION SCHEDULE TO PERMIT ENTIRE DELEGATION TO BE HOUSED THERE. HOWEVER, SO FAR ALL WE HAVE IS INDICATION FROM CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT OF GON ONLY TO PUT UP 4 OR 5 GUESTS (I. E. RUSHES, SISCOS, AND PERHAPS ONE SECURITY MAN), WITH BALANCE OF PARTY GOING TO HOTEL.

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B. ALTERNATIVE IS TO PUT RUSHES AND SISCOS AT RESIDENCE AND RESTINTAINED, AND OPERATED BY THE U. S. MILITARY. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U. S. FORCES, KEY EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPORT CAPABILITY WILL ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATE THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM OUTSIDE OF SAIGON. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW UPCOUNTRY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS AND RADIO BEACONS, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN AND IS LIMITED TO THE SAIGON AREA. TO MAINTAIN THIS LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS WILL REQUIRE CONTINUING ASSISTANCE BY THE CAAG TECHNICIANS IN THE SUPPORT OF THE AIR TRAFFIC RADAR CONTROL SYSTEM, AND THE HIGH FREQUENCY INDEPENDENT SIDEBAND COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS TO HONG KONG, SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, AND MANILA. RADIO-TELETYPE AND VOICE CIRCUITS WILL HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH PHNOM PENH AND VIENTIANE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORDERLY CONTROL OF AIR TRAFFIC.

IN ORDER TO MEET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF A VIABLE AIRWAY STRUCTURE WITHIN VIETNAM, TWO IN- COUNTRY AND ONE ON- ORDER VOR NAVIGATION FACILITIES WILL HAVE TO BE INSTALLED AT QUI NHON, PHAN THIET, AND BAN ME THUOUT. DCA TECHNICIANS HAVE TO BE TRAINED AND MUST GAIN PROFICIENCY IN THEIR MAINTENANCE.

A MILLION- DOLLAR TERMINAL RADAR APPROACH CONTROL SYSTEM WAS COMMISSIONED AT TAN SON NHUT ON THE 16 TH OF FEBRUARY 1973. CLOSE COORDINATION AND ASSISTANCE BY THE CAAG TECHNICIANS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR A MINIMUM ONE YEAR PERIOD TO FULLY QUALIFY THE VIETNAMESE TECHNICIANS FOR ITS CONTINUOUS RELIABLE OPERATION.

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THE ABOVE TASKS WILL REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF TWO ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS AND AN ELECTRONIC ENGINEER. THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF IS A QUALIFIED ELECTRONIC ENGINEER WHO WILL ALSO PROVIDE PLANNING AND GUIDANCE IN THIS AREA.

WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE U. S. MILITARY, NEW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND LETTERS OF AGREEMENT HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED TO

ENSURE THE FUNCTIONING OF A SAFE AND RELIABLE SYSTEM.
CONSTRUCTION OF THE DCA TRAINING CENTER HAS BEEN
COMPLETED AND ON- HAND TRAINING AIDS ARE BEING

INSTALLED IN THE CLASSROOMS. THE DCA WILL REQUIRE
ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING COURSES AND
INSTRUCTORS TO MAKE THEM SELF- SUFFICIENT IN THIS AREA.

TWO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALISTS IN THE ENROUTE
AND TERMINAL PHASES WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE
ABOVE ACTIVITIES.

THE DIRECTORATE OF AIR BASES WILL ASSUME A GREATER
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF
THE CIVIL AIRPORTS IN THE COUNTRY. ONE FAA CIVIL
ENGINEER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY
ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

CONSIDERING THE GAPS IN THE AIRWAYS SYSTEM BEING CREAT-
ED BY U. S. MILITARY WITHDRAWAL, THE NEED FOR EXPANDED
COVERAGE OUTSIDE OF THE SAIGON AREA, AND THE URGENT
PLEA OF THE DCA FOR CONTINUATION OF THE CAAG, IT WOULD
SEEM WISE TO EXTEND FAA ASSISTANCE TO THE END OF
FY-74.

THEREFORE, FAA SUGGESTS THAT AID EVALUATE THE CONSID-
ERATIONS OUTLINED IN THIS LETTER IN REACHING A
DECISION ON ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITY, PREVIOUSLY
UNDERTAKEN BY USAF, FOR THE FUNDING OF A SEVEN- MAN
CAAG TO LEND A HAND IN THE DIFFICULT TRANSITION
PERIOD.

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SIGNED BY: CHARLES O. CARY, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL AVIATION AFFAIRS (FEDERAL AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20591)

2. THIS WAS PROMPTED IN GENERAL BY LETTER FROM
NGUYEN- DINH- LAN, DIR. OF CIVIL AVIATION, TO ALEXANDER
BUTTERFIELD, ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINIS-
TRATION, IN WHICH LAN ASKED FOR FAA ADVICE AND GUIDANCE
ON AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CIVIL AVIATION.

3. AS THE MATTER STANDS, THERE ARE NO FUNDS PROGRAMMED
EITHER FROM DOD OR AID TO CONTINUE THIS ACTIVITY AT ANY

LEVEL. IN JUNE THE CAAG ASSISTANCE WOULD CEASE.

4. AID/ W NOW EXPLORING WITH DOD POSSIUILITY REINSTATING
DOD FUNDING FOR SEVEN MAN TEAM AS RECOMMENDED QUOTED
LETTER FOR FY 74. END FYI.

5. APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS VALUE TO GVN CONTINUED FUNDING
THIS PASA BY DOD. ROGERS

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